

The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

1674

21 April 1986

Dr. Michel Oksenberg

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Dear Mike:

Many thanks for your note of March 11, 1986. I am sorry to have taken so long to get back to you but you can appreciate that the last few weeks have been fairly hectic. I appreciated your sentiments on my appointment. I have also taken the liberty of passing a copy of your letter to [redacted] so that our folks can explore with you the kind of contract mentioned in your letter.

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The next time you know you are going to be in town, give me a call and I will spring for a sandwich.

Regards,



Robert M. Gates

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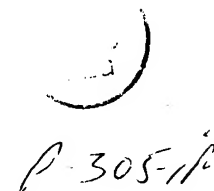
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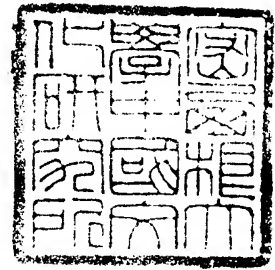
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March 11, 1986

Mr. Bob Gates

STAT

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your kind letter. I think your speech is far better than the excerpts of it. Congratulations on a fine job. My only regret is that you, a CIA employee, had to make that speech. The burden for publicly defending exchanges between the Agency and the university should be borne by academics, and you have roused me to do so. For starters, I am xeroxing copies of your speech and distributing it to many of my colleagues.

I have another suggestion. I am willing to be an early guinea pig to seek an openly identified research grant from the CIA. May I suggest the Agency identify perhaps three to four research topics it is willing to sponsor, make a public announcement, and invite bids? If one is a China topic, I'd submit a proposal. If you are interested in pursuing this, give a call. The invitation for bids would have to be well structured, similar to the way many other government agencies do it, and the topic probably should not rely on interviewing or on foreign research. A topic that calls for library research in unclassified sources would be the ideal, I should think.

Bob, congratulations on your new appointment. It is much deserved. And congratulations also on the good job on the Philippines. Several people told me you represented the Agency in several key meetings. Somehow, the thought of Mike Armacost, Paul Wolfowitz, and you handling this complex matter made me feel good.

Sincerely,

Michel Oksenberg
Professor of Political Science

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